

Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference
School Readiness Program
Executive Summary
March 6, 2025

The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference met on March 6, 2025, to adopt a new School Readiness Program forecast through FY 2029-30. The forecast incorporates final FY 2023-24 School Readiness FTE data; FY 2024-25 FTE data through January 2025; updated demographic data reflecting the latest Demographic Estimating Conference results; the latest 5-year American Community Survey (2019-2023) data; and an FTE forecast from the February 2025 PreK-12 Education Estimating Conference.

Children in eligible low-income households can participate in the program's range of services from birth through the age of 12.¹ The FTE are linked to "Care Level" (Infant, Toddler, 2 Year Old, Preschool 3, Preschool 4, Preschool 5, and School Age) and three different forecasting methodologies are tailored to those levels of care. To forecast Infant FTE, average historical rates of Infant FTE relative to births are applied to the Demographic Estimating Conference birth series. Historical progression trends from each of the Care Levels between Infant and Preschool 5 are used to forecast cohorts moving through these respective levels. Finally, average historical rates of School Age FTE relative to non-scholarship Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) FTE are applied to the Education Estimating Conference non-scholarship FTE forecast series to produce the School Age FTE forecast.

Final enrollment data reported for FY 2023-24 resulted in an estimated 111,414.82 FTE, an increase of 175.55 over the prior forecast and 2,192.28 (2.0%) over FY 2022-23. For the current year (FY 2024-25), strong enrollment data reported through January suggests a revised total of 115,418.23 FTE, an increase of 1,725.44 over the prior forecast and 4,003.41 (3.6%) over FY 2023-24.

For the remainder of the forecast, each year's total is expected to grow over the prior year, with increases ranging from a high of 2,306.53 (2.0%) in FY 2026-27 to a low of 1,170.04 (1.0%) in FY 2029-30. The final year of the forecast, FY 2029-30, is expected to reach 124,000.40 FTE.

Historical and Forecasted Total School Readiness FTE				
Fiscal Year	Total FTE	Change from the prior forecast (8/8/2024)	Change from the prior fiscal year	% Change from the prior fiscal year
FY 2022-2023	109,222.54		2,780.35	2.6%
FY 2023-2024	111,414.82	175.55	2,192.28	2.0%
FY 2024-2025 Forecast	115,418.23	1,725.44	4,003.41	3.6%
FY 2025-2026 Forecast	117,511.32	1,470.14	2,093.09	1.8%
FY 2026-2027 Forecast	119,817.85	1,635.25	2,306.53	2.0%
FY 2027-2028 Forecast	121,551.88	1,681.37	1,734.03	1.4%
FY 2028-2029 Forecast	122,830.36	1,542.70	1,278.48	1.1%
FY 2029-2030 Forecast	124,000.40	1,588.67	1,170.04	1.0%

¹ The criteria for the traditional School Readiness program includes:

- Gross income must be at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for initial eligibility and at or below 85 percent of the State Median Income (SMI) for continued eligibility;
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) must work or participate in an educational activity such as attending college or trade school at least 20 hours per week; and,
- Families must pay a copayment for child care based on income and family size.
- The School Readiness Match (SRMT) Program extends services to low-income families up to 85 percent of the SMI, including those families who were initially above 150 percent of the FPL.

CONFERENCE REPORT FOR
EARLY LEARNING ESTIMATING CONFERENCE
SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM
POPULATION AND ENROLLMENT (FTE)

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Statewide Summary of Population by Care Level
and
FTE Forecasts by County and Care Level - FY2024-25 through FY2029-30

The criteria for the traditional School Readiness program includes 1) Gross income must be at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for initial eligibility and at or below 85 percent of the State Median Income (SMI) for continued eligibility; 2) Parent(s)/guardian(s) must work or participate in an educational activity such as attending college or trade school at least 20 hours per week; and, 3) Families must pay a copayment for child care based on income and family size. The School Readiness Match (SRMT) Program extends services to low-income families up to 85 percent of the SMI, including those families who were initially above 150 percent of the FPL.

EARLY LEARNING ESTIMATING CONFERENCE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

Population¹ by Income and Care Level

s. 216.136(8)(a), F.S.

March 6, 2025

	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25	FY2025-26 Forecast
	- 1 -	- 2 -	- 3 -	- 4 -
Infant	68,224	67,973	68,332	69,133
Toddler	66,868	68,886	68,432	68,807
2 Year Old	66,624	67,888	69,738	69,244
Preschool 3	68,739	67,655	68,818	70,572
Preschool 4	70,008	69,789	68,579	69,704
Preschool 5	71,406	71,065	70,720	69,450
School Age	487,898	492,359	495,193	496,857
TOTAL	899,767	905,615	909,812	913,767
<i>Year over Year Growth</i>		0.6%	0.5%	0.4%

¹At or below 150 percent of the FPL by care level as of January 1; excluding all other requirements as outlined on the title page. This population is only applicable to the traditional school readiness program.

EARLY LEARNING ESTIMATING CONFERENCE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

by Care Level

s. 1002.89(1)(a)1, F.S. (2024)

March 6, 2025

FTE

Infant

Toddler

2 Year Old

Preschool 3

Preschool 4

Preschool 5

School Age

TOTAL FTE

Total FTE (excluding SRMT)

Enrollment

Total Enrollment

Total Enrollment (excluding SRMT)

FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25 Forecast March 6, 2025	FY2025-26 Forecast March 6, 2025
- 1 -	-2 -	-3 -	-4 -
5,243.53	5,212.62	5,234.86	5,299.71
13,491.63	13,866.24	14,197.22	14,257.81
18,655.17	19,055.82	20,153.42	20,634.48
20,595.93	20,780.33	21,144.38	22,362.28
19,054.58	19,605.75	20,098.91	20,451.03
7,527.80	7,819.03	8,183.57	8,389.42
24,653.90	25,075.03	26,405.87	26,116.59
109,222.54	111,414.82	115,418.23	117,511.32
102,196.12	104,154.75	109,408.51	111,501.60
209,986	212,062	215,547	219,456
175,376	182,973	190,804	194,713

EARLY LEARNING ESTIMATING CONFERENCE

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

Change from Prior Year

FTE By Care Level

March 6, 2025

	FY2023-24 Est minus FY2022-23	FY2024-25 Forecast minus FY2023-24	FY2025-26 Forecast minus FY2024-25	FY2023-24 Est as compared to FY2022-23	FY2024-25 Forecast as compared to FY2023-24	FY2025-26 Forecast as compared to FY2024-25
	- 1 -	-2 -	-3 -	-4 -	-5 -	-6 -
Infant	-30.91	22.24	64.85	-0.6%	0.4%	1.2%
Toddler	374.61	330.98	60.59	2.8%	2.4%	0.4%
2 Year Old	400.65	1,097.60	481.06	2.1%	5.8%	2.4%
Preschool 3	184.40	364.05	1,217.90	0.9%	1.8%	5.8%
Preschool 4	551.17	493.16	352.12	2.9%	2.5%	1.8%
Preschool 5	291.23	364.54	205.85	3.9%	4.7%	2.5%
School Age	421.13	1,330.84	-289.28	1.7%	5.3%	-1.1%
TOTAL	2,192.28	4,003.41	2,093.09	2.0%	3.6%	1.8%

**EARLY LEARNING ESTIMATING CONFERENCE
SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM**

Long-Range FTE Summary
March 6, 2025

	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25 Forecast March 6, 2025	FY2025-26 Forecast March 6, 2025	FY2026-27 Forecast March 6, 2025	FY2027-28 Forecast March 6, 2025	FY2028-29 Forecast March 6, 2025	FY2029-30 Forecast March 6, 2025
	- 1 -	-2 -	-3 -	-4 -	-5 -	-6 -	-7 -	-8 -
Infant	5,243.53	5,212.62	5,234.86	5,299.71	5,344.93	5,389.48	5,431.86	5,476.97
Toddler	13,491.63	13,866.24	14,197.22	14,257.81	14,434.43	14,557.60	14,678.93	14,794.36
2 Year Old	18,655.17	19,055.82	20,153.42	20,634.48	20,722.54	20,979.24	21,158.26	21,334.60
Preschool 3	20,595.93	20,780.33	21,144.38	22,362.28	22,896.06	22,993.77	23,278.61	23,477.25
Preschool 4	19,054.58	19,605.75	20,098.91	20,451.03	21,628.99	22,145.27	22,239.77	22,515.27
Preschool 5	7,527.80	7,819.03	8,183.57	8,389.42	8,536.39	9,028.08	9,243.58	9,283.03
School Age	24,653.90	25,075.03	26,405.87	26,116.59	26,254.51	26,458.44	26,799.35	27,118.92
TOTAL	109,222.54	111,414.82	115,418.23	117,511.32	119,817.85	121,551.88	122,830.36	124,000.40
<i>Year over Year Growth</i>	<i>2.6%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>

EARLY LEARNING ESTIMATING CONFERENCE
SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM
Long-Range Comparison to Last Conference
March 6, 2025

	FY2022-23	FY2023-24 Estimate	FY2024-25 Forecast	FY2025-26 Forecast	FY2026-27 Forecast	FY2027-28 Forecast	FY2028-29 Forecast	FY2029-30 Forecast
	- 1 -	- 2 -	- 3 -	- 4 -	- 5 -	- 6 -	- 7 -	- 8 -
Infant	0.00	6.89	-74.78	-63.08	-65.35	-65.89	-66.41	-66.95
Toddler	0.00	17.41	159.98	-59.56	-26.26	-31.14	-31.40	-31.65
2 Year Old	0.00	24.44	486.94	700.46	390.71	443.88	441.06	444.73
Preschool 3	0.00	28.46	-240.47	263.78	496.94	147.64	203.79	198.10
Preschool 4	0.00	21.35	307.92	56.41	553.77	783.35	451.54	508.94
Preschool 5	0.00	14.12	283.20	405.72	309.18	526.32	626.16	493.64
School Age	0.00	62.88	802.65	166.41	-23.74	-122.79	-82.04	41.86
TOTAL	0.00	175.55	1,725.44	1,470.14	1,635.25	1,681.37	1,542.70	1,588.67
<i>Year over Year Growth</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.2%</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>-0.3%</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>-0.1%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>

2024-25 FTE Comparison

Dist	District	Forecast		Change	Percent Change
		August 8, 2024	March 6, 2025	March 6, 2025	March 6, 2025
		Conference	Conference	Conference - August 8, 2024 Conference	Conference - August 8, 2024 Conference
1	Alachua	1,267.25	1,341.66	74.41	5.9%
2	Baker	186.09	160.65	-25.44	-13.7%
3	Bay	1,044.46	1,083.38	38.92	3.7%
4	Bradford	189.66	158.00	-31.66	-16.7%
5	Brevard	3,050.70	3,052.02	1.32	0.0%
6	Broward	10,979.63	11,823.82	844.19	7.7%
7	Calhoun	57.13	69.41	12.28	21.5%
8	Charlotte	443.07	433.80	-9.27	-2.1%
9	Citrus	643.68	655.85	12.17	1.9%
10	Clay	841.23	860.70	19.47	2.3%
11	Collier	1,247.74	1,195.47	-52.27	-4.2%
12	Columbia	900.06	877.70	-22.36	-2.5%
13	Miami-Dade	14,918.36	15,769.81	851.45	5.7%
14	DeSoto	135.32	142.42	7.10	5.2%
15	Dixie	35.46	78.67	43.21	121.9%
16	Duval	6,857.16	6,770.76	-86.40	-1.3%
17	Escambia	1,909.69	1,794.97	-114.72	-6.0%
18	Flagler	474.42	470.43	-3.99	-0.8%
19	Franklin	20.88	22.57	1.69	8.1%
20	Gadsden	489.08	440.22	-48.86	-10.0%
21	Gilchrist	77.80	66.84	-10.96	-14.1%
22	Glades	22.80	15.80	-7.00	-30.7%
23	Gulf	17.86	10.49	-7.37	-41.3%
24	Hamilton	128.84	120.52	-8.32	-6.5%
25	Hardee	153.52	139.61	-13.91	-9.1%
26	Hendry	310.96	268.49	-42.47	-13.7%
27	Hernando	617.17	577.47	-39.70	-6.4%
28	Highlands	432.85	449.15	16.30	3.8%
29	Hillsborough	9,267.32	10,045.69	778.37	8.4%
30	Holmes	104.82	99.74	-5.08	-4.8%
31	Indian River	552.23	555.85	3.62	0.7%
32	Jackson	481.38	501.82	20.44	4.2%
33	Jefferson	115.14	115.07	-0.07	-0.1%
34	Lafayette	31.81	38.51	6.70	21.1%
35	Lake	1,528.48	1,673.82	145.34	9.5%
36	Lee	2,662.68	2,532.37	-130.31	-4.9%
37	Leon	1,902.76	1,879.94	-22.82	-1.2%
38	Levy	315.76	309.73	-6.03	-1.9%
39	Liberty	20.51	19.12	-1.39	-6.8%
40	Madison	96.98	100.47	3.49	3.6%
41	Manatee	2,216.75	2,161.89	-54.86	-2.5%
42	Marion	1,634.31	1,579.67	-54.64	-3.3%
43	Martin	485.98	520.20	34.22	7.0%
44	Monroe	198.52	238.87	40.35	20.3%
45	Nassau	177.12	152.37	-24.75	-14.0%
46	Okaloosa	755.32	758.98	3.66	0.5%
47	Okeechobee	264.00	247.59	-16.41	-6.2%
48	Orange	8,722.13	9,021.56	299.43	3.4%
49	Osceola	1,823.63	2,005.05	181.42	9.9%
50	Palm Beach	10,450.33	10,416.77	-33.56	-0.3%
51	Pasco	2,132.90	1,898.50	-234.40	-11.0%
52	Pinellas	4,589.91	4,318.79	-271.12	-5.9%
53	Polk	4,236.98	4,068.22	-168.76	-4.0%
54	Putnam	781.04	708.84	-72.20	-9.2%
55	St. Johns	677.87	598.85	-79.02	-11.7%
56	St. Lucie	2,469.70	2,420.02	-49.68	-2.0%
57	Santa Rosa	574.42	667.79	93.37	16.3%
58	Sarasota	1,076.09	1,081.64	5.55	0.5%
59	Seminole	1,703.34	1,560.44	-142.90	-8.4%
60	Sumter	319.54	341.78	22.24	7.0%
61	Suwannee	339.49	357.27	17.78	5.2%
62	Taylor	119.13	109.13	-10.00	-8.4%
63	Union	81.42	76.63	-4.79	-5.9%
64	Volusia	2,809.33	2,798.24	-11.09	-0.4%
65	Wakulla	156.83	139.03	-17.80	-11.3%
66	Walton	197.28	271.08	73.80	37.4%
67	Washington	166.69	176.22	9.53	5.7%
99	Florida	113,692.79	115,418.23	1,725.44	1.5%

2025-26 FTE Comparison

Dist	District	Forecast		Change	Percent Change
		August 8, 2024	March 6, 2025	March 6, 2025	March 6, 2025
		Conference	Conference	Conference - August 8, 2024 Conference	Conference - August 8, 2024 Conference
1	Alachua	1,259.84	1,383.70	123.86	9.8%
2	Baker	179.53	147.56	-31.97	-17.8%
3	Bay	1,064.61	1,145.11	80.50	7.6%
4	Bradford	195.80	163.94	-31.86	-16.3%
5	Brevard	3,149.34	2,824.86	-324.48	-10.3%
6	Broward	10,955.90	12,754.46	1,798.56	16.4%
7	Calhoun	56.94	75.40	18.46	32.4%
8	Charlotte	458.86	469.99	11.13	2.4%
9	Citrus	672.06	669.63	-2.43	-0.4%
10	Clay	861.73	939.63	77.90	9.0%
11	Collier	1,314.86	1,247.35	-67.51	-5.1%
12	Columbia	939.56	856.18	-83.38	-8.9%
13	Miami-Dade	15,232.51	16,743.38	1,510.87	9.9%
14	DeSoto	146.63	148.24	1.61	1.1%
15	Dixie	43.29	93.14	49.85	115.2%
16	Duval	6,892.76	6,536.41	-356.35	-5.2%
17	Escambia	1,890.94	1,764.55	-126.39	-6.7%
18	Flagler	510.41	458.00	-52.41	-10.3%
19	Franklin	19.87	17.23	-2.64	-13.3%
20	Gadsden	524.16	417.08	-107.08	-20.4%
21	Gilchrist	83.80	62.51	-21.29	-25.4%
22	Glades	23.61	15.24	-8.37	-35.5%
23	Gulf	19.11	7.97	-11.14	-58.3%
24	Hamilton	134.80	116.97	-17.83	-13.2%
25	Hardee	143.30	123.32	-19.98	-13.9%
26	Hendry	328.95	260.97	-67.98	-20.7%
27	Hernando	658.10	573.08	-85.02	-12.9%
28	Highlands	464.71	483.98	19.27	4.1%
29	Hillsborough	9,102.44	10,045.58	943.14	10.4%
30	Holmes	109.44	87.34	-22.10	-20.2%
31	Indian River	572.43	566.27	-6.16	-1.1%
32	Jackson	487.20	507.51	20.31	4.2%
33	Jefferson	130.21	119.48	-10.73	-8.2%
34	Lafayette	34.16	46.16	12.00	35.1%
35	Lake	1,555.22	1,817.11	261.89	16.8%
36	Lee	2,626.32	2,557.99	-68.33	-2.6%
37	Leon	2,005.72	1,907.74	-97.98	-4.9%
38	Levy	337.59	310.38	-27.21	-8.1%
39	Liberty	20.12	16.70	-3.42	-17.0%
40	Madison	88.25	89.70	1.45	1.6%
41	Manatee	2,273.54	2,210.19	-63.35	-2.8%
42	Marion	1,692.54	1,622.66	-69.88	-4.1%
43	Martin	469.92	532.41	62.49	13.3%
44	Monroe	197.95	307.34	109.39	55.3%
45	Nassau	191.17	157.81	-33.36	-17.5%
46	Okaloosa	803.60	753.13	-50.47	-6.3%
47	Okeechobee	279.71	245.53	-34.18	-12.2%
48	Orange	8,969.34	9,009.15	39.81	0.4%
49	Osceola	1,932.75	2,215.21	282.46	14.6%
50	Palm Beach	10,897.64	10,581.60	-316.04	-2.9%
51	Pasco	2,119.60	1,789.32	-330.28	-15.6%
52	Pinellas	4,666.56	4,096.15	-570.41	-12.2%
53	Polk	4,277.10	3,950.60	-326.50	-7.6%
54	Putnam	815.57	709.49	-106.08	-13.0%
55	St. Johns	739.43	600.06	-139.37	-18.8%
56	St. Lucie	2,620.93	2,471.19	-149.74	-5.7%
57	Santa Rosa	593.90	737.44	143.54	24.2%
58	Sarasota	1,119.25	1,104.21	-15.04	-1.3%
59	Seminole	1,753.77	1,469.84	-283.93	-16.2%
60	Sumter	331.64	369.30	37.66	11.4%
61	Suwannee	349.42	370.03	20.61	5.9%
62	Taylor	117.45	93.95	-23.50	-20.0%
63	Union	86.59	78.05	-8.54	-9.9%
64	Volusia	2,901.63	2,791.99	-109.64	-3.8%
65	Wakulla	164.21	123.25	-40.96	-24.9%
66	Walton	210.29	363.48	153.19	72.8%
67	Washington	170.60	186.10	15.50	9.1%
99	Florida	116,041.18	117,511.32	1,470.14	1.3%